

DOCKET NO.:IBIS-0007

PATENT

15.1
--While there are a number of ways to characterize binding between molecular interaction sites and ligands, such as for example, organic compounds, preferred methodologies are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,221,587 and 6,253,168 and in applications having U.S. Serial Nos. 09/076,447, 09/076,206, and 09/076,214. All of the foregoing are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 94, line 25 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--The three dimensional structure of a molecular interaction site, preferably of an RNA, can be manipulated as a numerical representation. Computer software that provides one skilled in the art with the ability to design molecules based on the chemistry being performed and on available reaction building blocks is commercially available. Software packages from companies such as, for example, Tripos (St. Louis, MO), Molecular Simulations (San Diego, CA), MDL Information Systems (San Leandro, CA) and Chemical Design (NJ) provide means for computational generation of structures. These software products also provide means for evaluating and comparing computationally generated molecules and their structures. *In silico* collections of molecular interaction sites can be generated using the software from any of the above-mentioned vendors and others which are or may become available.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 101, line 10 of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Certain preferred evaluation techniques employing mass spectroscopy are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/076,206 filed on even date herewith and assigned to the assignee of the present application. The foregoing patent application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety as exemplary of certain useful and preferred mass spectrometric techniques for use herewith. It is to be specifically understood, however, that it is not essential that these particular mass spectrometric techniques be employed in order to perform the present invention. Rather, any evaluative technique may be undertaken so long as the objectives of the present invention are maintained.